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International drug control

International cooperation against the world drug problem: progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 55/65 and 56/124, both entitled "International cooperation against the world drug problem", in which the Assembly welcomed the decision of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to submit a report to the Assembly in 2003 and 2008 on the progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session (resolution S-20/2, annex).

The present report has also been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 62/176 entitled "International cooperation against the world drug problem", in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its sixty-third session a report on the implementation of that resolution. The present report provides an overview of the status of implementation of the mandates relating to international drug control, in particular the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.

Further, the present report contains information collected pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 50/12 entitled "Measures to meet the goal of establishing by 2009 the progress achieved in implementing the declarations and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session". At the fifty-first session of the Commission, the thematic debate was devoted to progress achieved by Governments in meeting the goals and targets for 2003 and 2008 set at

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the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, based on the fifth biennial and final assessment report presented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The present report reflects the outcome of the thematic debate.

Also in its resolution 50/12, the Commission decided to convene a high-level segment, open to all Member States, during its fifty-second session, in 2009, in order to conduct a global assessment of the implementation of the declarations and measures adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session and agreed that it would initiate preparations for the high-level segment during its fifty-first session, in 2008. The present report provides information on the preparations made at the fifty-first session.

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I. Introduction

1. In the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session (Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex), in 1998, the Assembly called upon all States to report biennially to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on their efforts to meet the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration for 2003 and 2008 and requested the Commission to analyse those reports in order to enhance the cooperative effort to combat the world drug problem.

2. At its forty-second session, in 1999, the Commission examined its new mandates emanating from the Political Declaration. In its resolution 42/11, entitled "Guidelines for reporting on the follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly", the Commission adopted a questionnaire that included the information required on all action plans and measures adopted by the Assembly at that special session; requested the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to prepare, on the basis of the replies to the questionnaire provided by Member States, a biennial report, to be examined by the Commission at its sessions in 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2008 covering the difficulties encountered in meeting the objectives and targets agreed upon at that special session; also requested the Executive Director to cover in his report the efforts of Governments to meet the objectives and target dates established by the Assembly at that special session, on the basis of a comprehensive, confidential and balanced treatment of information covering all aspects of the drug problem; and decided to submit a report to the Assembly in 2003 and 2008 on the progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration.

3. At its forty-fourth session, in 2001, the Commission considered the consolidated first biennial report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.7/2001/16). At its forty-sixth session, in 2003, the Commission had before it the second biennial report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session (E/CN.7/2003/2 and Add.1-6). At its fifty-first session, the Commission considered the fifth and final assessment report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session (E/CN.7/2008/2 and Add.1-6).

4. In its resolutions 55/65 of 4 December 2000 and 56/124 of 19 December 2001, both entitled "International cooperation against the world drug problem", the Assembly welcomed the decision of the Commission to submit a report to the Assembly in 2003 and 2008 on the progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration.

5. In its resolution 62/176 of 18 December 2007, also entitled "International cooperation against the world drug problem", the General Assembly, reaffirming the Political Declaration adopted by it at its twentieth special session and the importance of meeting the objectives targeted for 2008 and reaffirming also the joint ministerial statement adopted at the ministerial segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (A/58/124, sect. II.A), the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction (Assembly resolution 54/132, annex) and the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on

Alternative Development (Assembly resolution S-20/4 E), urged all States to strengthen their efforts to achieve the goals set for 2008 at its twentieth special session.

6. Also in its resolution 62/176, the General Assembly called upon States to evaluate progress made since 1998 towards meeting the goals and targets set at the twentieth special session of the Assembly; encouraged the Commission and the International Narcotics Control Board to continue their work on the control of precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; and urged all Governments to provide the fullest possible financial and political support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) so as to enable it to continue, expand and strengthen its operational and technical cooperation activities, within its mandates, and recommended that a sufficient share of the regular budget of the United Nations be allocated to the Office to enable it to carry out its mandates.

II. International cooperation against the world drug problem

A. Follow-up by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

7. At the fifty-first session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, during the deliberations on the agenda item entitled "Drug demand reduction", several speakers reiterated that comprehensive measures for drug demand reduction were an essential element of the response to the world drug problem, emphasized the importance of a balanced approach to supply and demand reduction measures, and called for a balanced allocation of funding between supply and demand reduction measures (E/2008/28).

8. Also at that session, speakers stressed the importance of integrating prevention and treatment measures into overall health-care systems and of using an approach based on public health and respect for human rights. Several speakers mentioned that harm reduction had become a well-established part of drug policy in some countries. They highlighted the importance of primary prevention among youth and underlined the need to develop programmes targeting vulnerable groups, including women, children and families at risk.

9. Several speakers reiterated the essential role played by good-quality data in supporting the formulation of evidence-based responses in demand reduction. Concern was expressed about the quality and quantity of data made available by Member States for global analysis of the drug use situation and trends and about the need to improve the reliability of data on drug abuse. It was also suggested that a regional reporting mechanism should be designed as a basis for a global monitoring system beyond 2008 and that an Internet-based data collection instrument should be designed to facilitate responses by Member States.

10. Measures to strengthen comprehensive prevention and care responses to HIV/AIDS associated with drug abuse were called for and the efforts of UNODC in playing a leading role in that area were welcomed.

11. In relation to drug demand reduction, at its fifty-first session the Commission on Narcotic Drugs adopted resolution 51/2, entitled "The consequences of cannabis

use: refocusing prevention, education and treatment efforts for young people", and resolution 51/3, entitled "Early detection of drug use cases by health- and social-care providers by applying the principles of interview screening and brief intervention approaches to interrupt drug use progression and, when appropriate, linking people to treatment for substance abuse".

12. The establishment of effective criminal justice systems, including strengthening the rule of law and building the capacity of law enforcement authorities, was identified as a crucial factor in the fight against drug trafficking. Speakers emphasized the importance of international cooperation and exchange of information and reiterated their commitment to important joint initiatives such as Project Cohesion, coordinated by the International Narcotics Control Board. The effectiveness of controlled delivery operations in identifying those involved in trafficking syndicates was noted.

13. Speakers stressed the importance of cooperation and the early exchange of information on new trafficking routes and on the movement of aircraft and vessels and called for continued vigilance and proactive measures to respond to the smuggling of drugs by human couriers, via postal services or in sea containers. Speakers expressed concern at the increased use of countries on the coast in Western Africa as transit points in smuggling cocaine consignments from Latin America to Europe.

14. In the area of countering drug trafficking, the Commission adopted resolutions 51/5, entitled "Strengthening cross-border cooperation in the area of drug control", and 51/7, entitled "Assistance to States affected by the transit of illicit drugs", both of which deal with measures to enhance effective cross-border cooperation.

15. A number of speakers raised the issue of increased processing and trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants and psychoactive pharmaceuticals subject to abuse. It was stated that the methods employed by traffickers continued to be dynamic, changing in response to law enforcement efforts and successes, and that a new trend was developing involving the appearance of Afghan heroin in seizures in China, Malaysia and, when the heroin was routed through South-East Asia, in Europe.

16. Speakers expressed concern at the linkages between drug trafficking, organized crime and terrorism and noted the need for concerted action to deny criminals the profits of those activities, including through effective legislation and procedures.

17. Several speakers stressed the fact that counter-narcotics strategies should be part of a broader, national strategy of development, addressing factors such as poverty alleviation, unemployment, education and other economic and social factors, in order to prevent a return to the cultivation of drug crops (E/2008/28, para. 79). In that connection, the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Promoting sustainability and integrality in alternative development as an important part of drug control strategy in States where illicit crops are grown to produce drugs".

18. The Commission also recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Provision of international assistance to the most affected States neighbouring Afghanistan". In that draft resolution, the Council

urges the Government of Afghanistan and other Member States to support, enhance and initiate further measures to address the issue and UNODC is called upon to provide technical assistance.

B. Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly

1. Action by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

19. In the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, Member States called upon all States to report biennially to the Commission on their efforts to meet the goals and targets set for 2003 and 2008, and requested the Commission to analyse those reports in order to enhance the cooperative effort to combat the world drug problem. In its resolution 42/11, the Commission requested that those reports be submitted for its examination at its sessions in 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2008.

20. At its fifty-first session, the Commission took note of the fifth biennial report of the Executive Director on the world drug problem (E/CN.7/2008/2 and Add.1-6) and the final assessment report submitted pursuant to its resolution 42/11. The final assessment report drew on the responses submitted by Member States to the biennial reports questionnaires covering all reporting periods and information provided by States in the annual reports questionnaires and the illicit crop monitoring surveys of UNODC.

21. During the thematic debate held at the fifty-first session of the Commission, participants gave a general overview and focused on progress achieved by Governments in meeting the goals and targets for 2003 and 2008 set out in the Political Declaration. The following subthemes were discussed: (a) shared responsibility as a basis for an integrated, balanced and sustainable approach to the fight against drugs through national and international policies; (b) drug demand reduction; and (c) countering illicit drug supply. Based on the final assessment report presented by UNODC, the Commission noted that Member States had continued to make significant progress towards meeting the goals for 2008 set at the special session of the General Assembly. However, concern was expressed that some aspects of drug control had received greater attention than others. Several speakers emphasized the importance of a balanced approach to supply and demand reduction, noting that successful supply reduction efforts in drug-producing regions had been partially offset by the continued demand for drugs in all parts of the world.

22. Many speakers welcomed the increased level of cooperation among States since the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and recommended that that cooperation should be extended and strengthened beyond 2009. Several Member States stressed the importance of incorporating the law enforcement, legislative, health and social sectors, as well as civil society and non-governmental organizations, into national strategies.

23. Several speakers emphasized the importance of the measures and declarations emanating from the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, in particular the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction (Assembly resolution S-20/3, annex). It was noted that prior to 1998 demand reduction had been regarded as a controversial issue, whereas since then demand reduction had

occupied an important place on the international drug control agenda. The lack of financial, technological and human resources was viewed as a major obstacle to scaling up demand reduction programmes and interventions.

24. Several speakers indicated the need for a continuum of practices describing a comprehensive approach to drug demand reduction that aimed at the prevention of drug abuse, at facilitating access to treatment and at taking effective measures to reduce the health and social consequences of drug abuse. Measures to reduce the harm caused by drugs, as well as the provision of universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention and care services, were essential to comprehensive drug demand reduction policies and effective ways to limit the further spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

25. Several participants called for a more explicit commitment to human rights in the context of drug control efforts, stating that drug abusers should not be stigmatized and were entitled to respect of their human rights in compliance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (General Assembly resolution 217 A (III)). The need to monitor and assess the status of human rights was mentioned as a way of preventing possible violations related to drug offences (E/2008/28, para. 25). In that connection, the Commission adopted resolution 51/12, entitled "Strengthening cooperation between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other United Nations entities for the promotion of human rights in the implementation of the international drug control treaties", in which it requested UNODC to continue, within its existing mandate, to work closely with the competent United Nations entities.

26. Under the subtheme entitled "Countering illicit drug supply", speakers highlighted the efforts of their Governments to comply with international standards to counter money-laundering through the adoption of comprehensive legislation criminalizing money-laundering and by establishing comprehensive prevention measures for financial institutions and other entities vulnerable to money-laundering. Several speakers acknowledged the increase in trafficking in precursors by transnational organized crime networks and called for the strengthening of law enforcement efforts. Speakers emphasized the importance of international and regional cooperation and of strengthening border controls and cooperation among various States in that area.

27. One speaker emphasized that the measures to promote judicial cooperation contained in the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, such as the extradition of drug offenders, controlled deliveries, cooperation to combat trafficking by sea, sharing of intelligence and cooperation among law enforcement authorities, remained valid and should further guide the efforts of Governments in that area.

28. Several speakers noted the need for further action to contain the problem of amphetamine-type stimulants, as shifts detected in the market had suggested some diversification in the illicit manufacture of and trade in such stimulants. A number of speakers noted that, despite several successful national and regional initiatives and law enforcement efforts to combat the illicit manufacture and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants, focus should be placed on law enforcement cooperation with a view to identifying at an early stage emerging trends in the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in such stimulants.

29. There was consensus that alternative development programmes had been useful in addressing illicit drug crop cultivation from the development perspective, but that their reach and the resources allocated to them had been insufficient. Some speakers noted the importance of having secure and stable markets for alternative development products in developed countries.

30. In its resolution 51/4, entitled "Preparations for the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, relating to the follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly", the Commission decided to devote two days to the high-level segment of its fifty-second session, in addition to the five days usually scheduled for its sessions in the first half of the year. Further, the Commission resolved that, notwithstanding the obligations emanating from the international drug control treaties and without prejudice to the outcome of the review process, a political declaration and, as appropriate, other declarations and measures to enhance international cooperation should be considered and adopted at the high-level segment, identifying, on the basis of the results of the review process, future priorities and areas requiring further action, as well as goals and targets to be set in countering the world drug problem beyond 2009, and that the outcome of the high-level segment should be submitted to the Assembly.

31. During the deliberations held at the fifty-first session of the Commission concerning preparations for the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission, it was agreed that the high-level segment would consist of a general debate reviewing the progress achieved and difficulties encountered by Member States in meeting the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, including challenges for the future. Round-table discussions on the following topics would be held in parallel with the general debate:

(a) Current and emerging challenges, new trends and patterns of the world drug problem and possible improvements to the evaluation system;

(b) Strengthening international cooperation in countering the world drug problem using shared responsibility as a basis for an integrated, comprehensive, balanced and sustainable approach in the fight against drugs through national and international policies;

(c) Demand reduction, treatment and preventive policies and practices;

(d) Countering illicit drug traffic and supply and alternative development.

32. Furthermore, in its resolution 51/4 and pursuant to its resolutions 49/1 and 49/2, the Commission decided to establish five open-ended intergovernmental working groups to work on the following topics, which correspond to the subjects of the action plans, declarations and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth session: (a) drug demand reduction; (b) supply reduction (manufacture and trafficking); (c) countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation; (d) international cooperation on the eradication of illicit drug crops and on alternative development; and (e) control of precursors and amphetamine-type stimulants.

2. Action by Governments

33. The fifth biennial report of the Executive Director (E/CN.7/2008/2 and Add.1-6) contains an overview and detailed analysis of the efforts made by Governments to implement the following action plans and measures emanating from the twentieth special session of the General Assembly: (a) the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction; (b) the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development; (c) measures to promote judicial cooperation (Assembly resolution S-20/4 C); (d) the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors (Assembly resolution S-20/4 A); (e) measures to control precursors (Assembly resolution S-20/4 B); and (f) measures for countering money-laundering (Assembly resolution S-20/4 D).

34. A total of 108 States and the European Commission responded; 79 per cent of the responses to the questionnaire for the fifth (and final) reporting period were submitted after the deadline of 30 June 2007. In its resolution 50/12, the Commission requested the Executive Director of UNODC to submit to it at its fifty-first session a report prepared pursuant to its resolution 42/11, containing information gathered through all previous biennial reports questionnaires and from the supplementary information obtained pursuant to its resolutions 49/1 and 50/12. An overview of progress made by Member States in implementing the goals and targets set at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, based on the responses provided by Governments to the questionnaire for each of the five reporting periods, from 1998 to 2007, is given below (E/CN.7/2008/2).

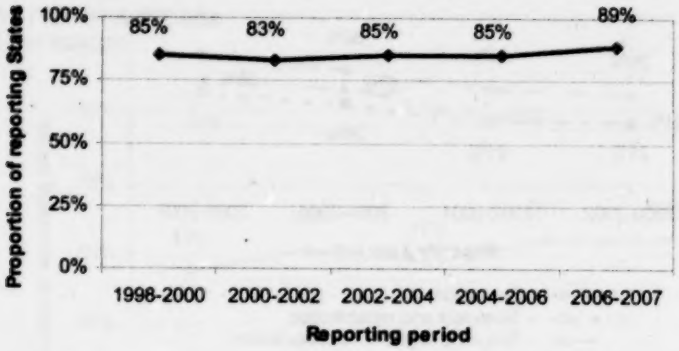
National drug control strategies

35. The 108 States that responded to the 2006-2007 biennial reports questionnaire achieved an implementation level of 89 per cent.[1]

36. Figure I shows that, notwithstanding intraregional fluctuations over the five reporting periods, the commitment to establishing a national drug control infrastructure remained high.

[1] An implementation level of 100 per cent would mean that all reporting States have indicated having a drug control infrastructure (drug strategy, national coordinating entity and multisectoral action plan); an implementation level of 0 per cent would mean that all reporting States have reported having none of the elements that constitute a drug control infrastructure.

Figure I
All regions: establishment of a national drug control infrastructure, by reporting period
(Percentage)



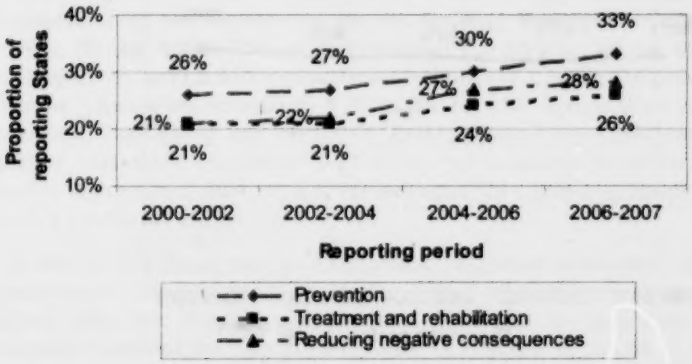
37. The number of countries taking action and the level of achievement in the area of national drug control infrastructure in all regions over the five reporting periods demonstrate a high degree of sustained political commitment by Member States to tackling the world drug problem and must be regarded as a significant accomplishment.

Demand reduction

38. Member States established 2003 as a target date for developing new and enhanced demand reduction strategies and programmes and committed themselves to achieving significant and measurable results by 2008.

39. As figure II shows, globally, progress was made in complying with the measures envisaged in the area of demand reduction. Programmes and coverage in the key areas of demand reduction (prevention; treatment and rehabilitation; and reducing the negative health and social consequences) have increased, although the increase has been relatively modest.

Figure II
All regions: implementation of demand reduction measures, by area of intervention, selected reporting periods
(Percentage)



40. Available information on the drug abuse situation suggests that, at the global level, the consumption of derivatives of coca and opium is stabilizing or even declining. The consumption of amphetamine-type stimulants is still increasing, but at a slower rate and it is pointing towards stabilization. Cannabis consumption has continued to increase in most countries, even though some signs of stabilization and even of a decrease were reported by some high-prevalence countries.

41. While the demand for treatment increased globally, treatment and rehabilitation programmes also increased, although in some regions the level of provision of services was very low and key elements of the continuum of services (such as substitution treatment) were not commonly available.

42. Interventions to reduce the negative health and social consequences of drug abuse have registered a strong increase at the global level. That trend appears to be associated with efforts to prevent the spread of HIV and other infections among injecting drug abusers.

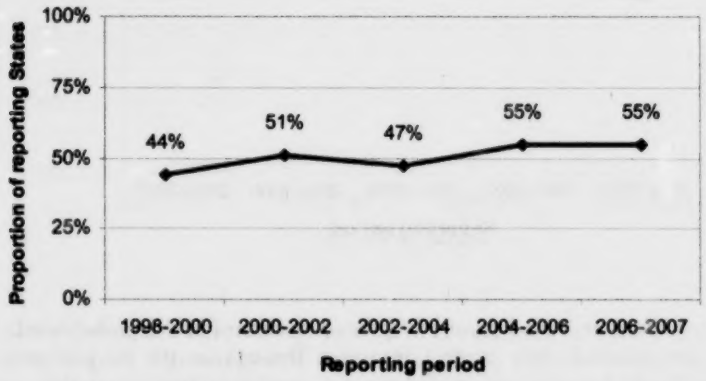
Amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors

43. In the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, Member States established 2008 as a target date for States to eliminate or significantly reduce the illicit manufacture and marketing of and trafficking in psychotropic substances, including synthetic drugs, and the diversion of precursors. Furthermore, in section VII of the biennial reports questionnaire, States were asked to provide information on their implementation of the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors.

44. A total of 107 States replied to section VII of the biennial reports questionnaire for the fifth reporting period. Overall implementation of the Action Plan stood at 55 per cent for the fifth reporting period, which suggests clear but insufficient

progress by Member States in the area during the 10-year period from 1998 to 2007 (see figure III).

Figure III
All regions: implementation of the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors, by reporting period
(Percentage)



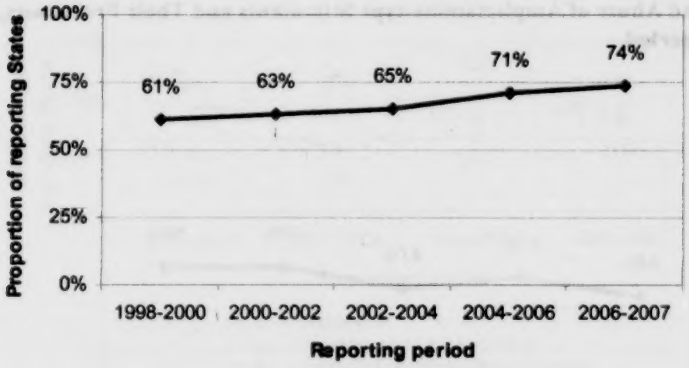
45. The key area in which the most progress was made was in the capacity to collect and analyse information, followed by policy and strategic responses, measures to improve awareness and reduce demand and measures to improve technical capacity to detect and monitor the problem of amphetamine-type stimulants.

46. At the subregional level, implementation of the Action Plan over the 10-year period was highest in Oceania, North America, East and South-East Asia and Central and Western Europe. Even though progress was made across the board in the implementation of the Action Plan, albeit to varying degrees in different regions, significant efforts were still required in order to understand the problem of amphetamine-type stimulants better and to tackle it effectively.

47. At the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, Member States agreed to promote concerted global action by adopting measures to further strengthen the control of precursor chemicals and they set 2008 as the target date for a significant reduction in the diversion of such chemicals.

48. In the 10 years since the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, the global compliance rate with general precursor control measures increased from 61 per cent in the reporting period 1998-2000 to 74 per cent in the reporting period 2006-2007 (see figure IV).

Figure IV
All regions: compliance with measures on precursor control, by reporting period
(Percentage)



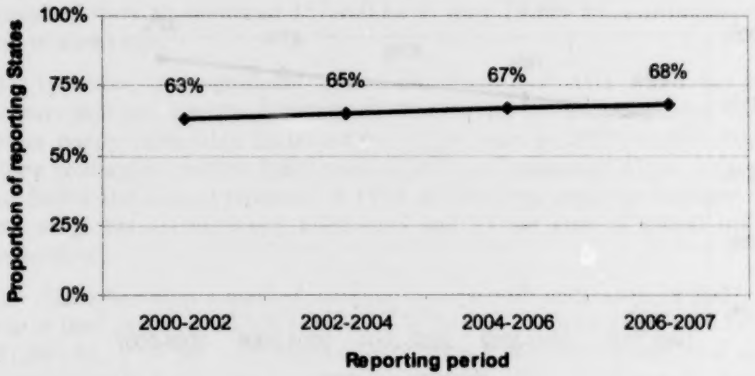
49. In addition to an improved picture of precursor control at the global level, all regions also strengthened their control measures throughout the 10-year period under review. North America reported the most consistent implementation rates regarding precursor control, with a 100 per cent level of confirmation of controls for three of the five reporting periods. Latin America and the Caribbean reported considerably improved precursor control measures, rising from 57 per cent to 70 per cent between the reporting periods 1998-2000 and 2006-2007. In North Africa and the Middle East, the compliance rate with regard to precursor control measures ranged between 60 per cent and 70 per cent throughout the 10-year period, with the most improvement being made towards the end of the period.

50. Although the overall trend in the implementation of precursor control measures was positive, attention should be given to related emerging issues, such as the increasing use of advanced technology for trafficking in controlled substances, the use of third-country parties in diversion operations and substitute chemicals not currently subject to international control.

Judicial cooperation

51. Member States have been encouraged to review and strengthen, by 2003, the implementation of the measures to promote judicial cooperation adopted at the special session. They were also called upon to remove impediments to extradition for serious drug offences. Most States have adopted laws and entered into bilateral and multilateral treaties providing for the extradition of accused drug offenders and many have revised their legislation since the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. Globally, the rate of implementation of the Assembly objectives on extradition increased over the 10-year period (see figure V), although the increase was not constant in all regions.

Figure V
All regions: measures taken in the area of extradition, selected reporting periods
(Percentage)



52. Most States have adopted legislation and entered into bilateral and multilateral treaties on mutual legal assistance in drug trafficking cases and many have revised their procedures since 1998. Globally, the implementation of measures to achieve the General Assembly objectives in the area of mutual legal assistance has steadily increased but has varied among subregions. Africa and Asia were the regions where rates were the lowest throughout the reporting periods.

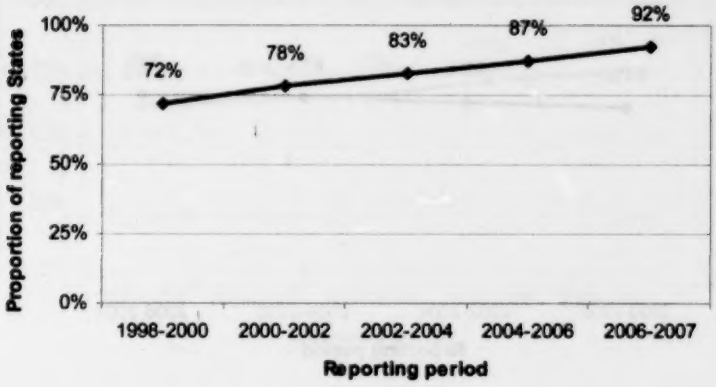
53. At the twentieth special session States were encouraged to consider enacting legislation on transferring or receiving proceedings in criminal matters. The implementation of measures increased globally over the 10-year period but remained low and it varied among subregions and reporting periods.

54. Member States have been encouraged to consider developing or expanding programmes for the exchange of law enforcement personnel and to enhance cooperation among law enforcement agencies. In that regard, law enforcement cooperation appears to have made progress in all regions and the implementation of measures in the area of law enforcement cooperation increased slightly between 1998 and 2007. However, cooperation at the international level outside regional frameworks seemed to be lacking.

Money-laundering

55. Regarding the adoption of national money-laundering legislation by all Member States, the global trend showed a steady increase between the reporting periods 1998-2000 and 2006-2007 (see figure VI). For the fifth reporting period, 92 per cent of responding Member States reported having legislation that criminalized the laundering of proceeds derived from drug trafficking and other serious crimes.

Figure VI
All regions: criminalization of the laundering of the proceeds of drug trafficking and other serious crimes, by reporting period
(Percentage)



56. With regard to the freezing, seizure and confiscation of the proceeds of drug trafficking and other serious crimes, the trend increased steadily from 71 per cent in the reporting period 1998-2000 to 89 per cent in the reporting period 2006-2007.

57. At the global level, a steadily rising trend (reaching 77 per cent) in the number of Member States in which money-laundering was an extraditable offence was observed over the five reporting periods, stabilizing in the fourth and fifth reporting periods. Nevertheless, that percentage was low compared with the requirements of the international standards, as all Member States had been called upon to increase cooperation and mutual legal assistance and to make money-laundering an extraditable offence.

58. The number of reporting Member States that had adopted legislation requiring declaration of cross-border transportation of cash in amounts exceeding specific values rose from 49 per cent in the first reporting period to 83 per cent in the fifth reporting period.

59. Regarding legislation on declaring cross-border transportation of negotiable bearer instruments, the trend remained low at the global level, although a strong increase was observed between the fourth (47 per cent) and fifth reporting periods (62 per cent). The discrepancies between regions were significant, with North America being the only subregion that had reached full compliance, whereas in many other areas compliance remained below 60 per cent.

60. The global trend in the adoption of measures taken by the financial system showed a progressive increase. For the fifth reporting period, 82 per cent of States reported having implemented measures to counter money-laundering in the financial system. Such measures included the reporting of suspicious or unusual transactions, "know-your-client" practices and the identification of the beneficial owners of accounts.

Illicit crop eradication and alternative development

61. Global illicit opium poppy cultivation declined by 2 per cent, from 238,000 hectares (ha) in 1998 to 234,000 ha in 2007. Over that same period, opium poppy cultivation in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Thailand decreased from an estimated 157,900 ha to only 29,400 ha, a reduction of 81 per cent in nine years.

62. However, the significant decline in South-East Asia could not offset the increase that occurred in Afghanistan. Worldwide, the estimated area under illicit opium poppy cultivation increased by 17 per cent in 2007. Global illicit opium poppy production reached 8,800 tons in 2007, an increase of 33 per cent over 2006 and double the amount produced in 1998. Afghanistan currently accounts for 82 per cent of global opium poppy cultivation and 93 per cent of global illicit opium production.

63. There has been a marked increase in coca bush cultivation in 2007. The total area of land under coca bush cultivation in Bolivia, Colombia and Peru in 2007 was 181,600 ha, a 16 per cent increase over 2006,[2] and the highest level since 2001 (although well below figures from the 1990s). That trend can be attributed to improved cultivation techniques such as the harvesting of more crops each year, the use of higher-yield varieties and an increase in the number of plants grown per hectare. Preliminary figures for 2007 indicate that the number of coca processing laboratories destroyed in Bolivia, Colombia and Peru remained at about the same level as in 2006. In 2007, Colombia accounted for 60 per cent of estimated global cocaine manufacture, Peru for 29 per cent and Bolivia for 11 per cent.

64. Estimates of cannabis herb production for 2006 show a slight decline for the second year running, an apparent reversal of the upward trend that began in the early 1990s. Global cannabis herb production was estimated at 41,400 tons, down from 42,000 tons in 2005 and 45,000 tons in 2004.[2] Indoor cultivation, in particular in developed countries, has continued to expand, with several countries emerging as important producers, supplying illicit markets within their territory and elsewhere. In addition, scientific analysis of cannabis suggests a continued increase in the content of tetrahydrocannabinol.

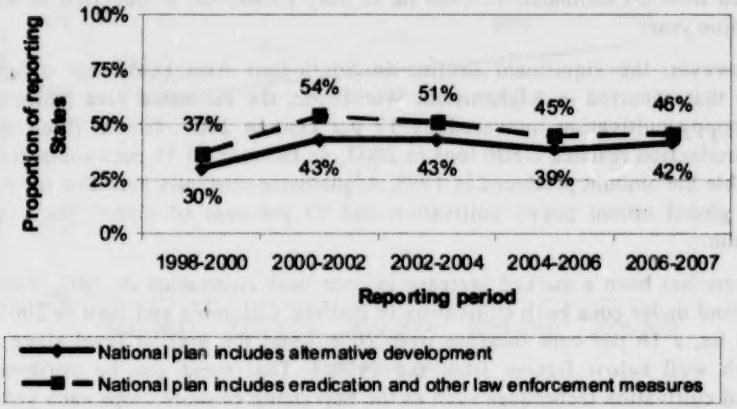
65. For the fifth reporting period (2006-2007), 44 States (42 per cent of respondents) reported having national plans or programmes that included alternative development. As can be seen in figure VII, that percentage reflected a slight increase over the previous reporting period and an increase of 12 per cent over the first and baseline reporting period (1998-2000).

[2] See *World Drug Report 2008* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XI.1).

Figure VII

All regions: existence of a national plan or programme to reduce or eliminate the cultivation of illicit drug crops, by type of plan and reporting period

(Percentage)



66. For the fifth reporting period, an increased percentage of States indicated that their alternative development programmes had supported participatory approaches and the establishment and training of community organizations and had taken into consideration the poorest and most vulnerable population groups.

67. Most States reporting on multilateral assistance provided for alternative development indicated that their support had been channelled through UNODC. A number of States also reported on bilateral assistance provided in support of alternative development.

68. For the reporting period 2006-2007, States cited financial constraints as the greatest obstacle to the implementation of alternative development programmes. Other obstacles identified were the lack of supporting structures for delivering development assistance, lack of technical expertise and coordination problems.

III. Action by the United Nations system

69. Through its drug programme, UNODC aims to make the world safer from drugs by supporting the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and its subsidiary bodies (the main United Nations policymaking bodies in the field of drug control) and supporting Member States through technical assistance, legal advice and research. UNODC is strategically placed to identify those areas in the world where its involvement can make the greatest contribution by strengthening regional capacity or mobilizing the support of the international community to match recipients' needs. The operations of UNODC are goal-oriented and seek solutions to challenging new trends and emerging problems. UNODC assists States in fulfilling their drug control commitments and supports their efforts to meet the standards they have set for themselves (E/CN.7/2007/6).

70. UNODC has been mandated to assist Member States in implementing the provisions of the international legal instruments on drugs. UNODC advises States on all aspects of the drug control conventions, from introducing preventive measures and criminalization to enhancing capacity for improved international cooperation.

71. In 2007 and 2008, UNODC continued to improve the coverage and quality of data and analysis it made available to Member States. In the 2008 edition of its flagship publication, the World Drug Report, UNODC presented the trends in the world's illicit drug markets, showed the progress made in the period 2006-2007 and highlighted vulnerable areas for drug control, most notably opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan and demand for cocaine in Europe.

A. Demand reduction

72. Although the global demand for illicit drugs does not appear to be increasing, there are still 25 million problem drug users in the world.[3] In 2007, UNODC continued to work with Member States, non-governmental organizations and municipalities to improve drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation and started strengthening its partnership with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and the World Health Organization to promote safer and healthier communities, seeking to reduce the spread of blood-borne diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, among injecting drug users (E/CN.7/2008/3).

73. Community-centred prevention involves working with children, parents and teachers to ensure that young people get the support they need to develop self-esteem, providing greater support for family-based programmes, since prevention begins at home, and creating opportunities for young people to engage in healthy activities to enhance their well-being, for example through the Global Sport Fund promoted by the Government of Qatar.

74. Mindful of the critical role played by non-governmental and civil society organizations in the prevention of drug abuse and in the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers, UNODC, in partnership with the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs, has facilitated a series of regional consultations culminating in a global forum entitled "Beyond 2008", held in Vienna from 7 to 9 July 2008. At the forum, participants were expected to highlight civil society's achievements and challenges in promoting drug demand reduction since the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.

B. Supply reduction and law enforcement

75. UNODC continued to serve as the secretariat of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, namely the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East and the regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies. Four meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission were held in 2007: the forty-second session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle

[3] *World Drug Report 2007* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XI.5).

East, held in Agra, India, from 3 to 7 December (UNODC/SUBCOM/2007/2); the seventeenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Nairobi from 17 to 20 September (UNODC/HONLAF/2007/5); the seventeenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Quito from 15 to 19 October (UNODC/HONLAC/2007/5); and the thirty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 13 to 16 November (UNODC/HONLAP/2007/5).

76. Areas where the rule of law is weak attract drug traffickers, perpetuating a vicious circle that perverts local economies, deepens corruption and erodes the integrity of public institutions. Much of the work carried out by UNODC in 2007 continued to aim at strengthening the rule of law: from prison reform and witness protection programmes to combating money-laundering and kidnapping. UNODC helped establish drug control agencies, build border posts, strengthen the judiciary and improve interdiction capability. UNODC also helped establish counter-narcotic intelligence centres in the Persian Gulf area and Central Asia and a trilateral initiative between Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan to facilitate border control and legal cooperation. UNODC also continued to assist States in Africa in strengthening their judicial capacity.

77. Upon request, UNODC undertook needs assessment missions regarding supply reduction to China, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Pakistan and Yemen and worked with partner Government agencies to develop technical assistance programmes to strengthen their responses to drug trafficking.

78. In October 2007, in the framework of the Paris Pact initiative, UNODC organized a meeting in Kabul of senior international counter-narcotics officials to review and improve regional and international efforts to contain the Afghan opiates threat. Furthermore, UNODC has developed the Automated Donor Assistance Mechanism, an online tool that contains information on nearly 900 counter-narcotics projects in Asia and Europe.

79. In November 2007, UNODC established the Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Centre to facilitate information exchange and analysis and to assist in the coordination of operational law enforcement activities among Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

C. Alternative livelihoods

80. UNODC continued to foster strong political commitment and increased support among the development community for alternative development programmes to reduce or eliminate illicit drug crop cultivation.

81. In 2007, 13 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces were opium-free (compared with only 6 in 2006). However, opium poppy cultivation reached unprecedented levels. Some 80 per cent of opium poppy crops were located in the south and south-west of the country, where security conditions had deteriorated markedly. UNODC supported the Government in policy development, institution- and capacity-building

for alternative livelihoods, criminal justice, cross-border operations and illicit crop monitoring.

82. In Bolivia, Colombia and Peru, UNODC-supported alternative development programmes were designed and implemented with a focus on poverty alleviation, sustainable productive management of strategic ecosystems, support for the marketing of alternative development products and diversified employment. In Colombia, UNODC programmes have provided farmers with technical and managerial assistance for productive activities and the rational exploitation of forest resources. UNODC also monitored voluntary eradication, forest recovery and socio-economic development. In Peru, UNODC assisted farmers in the development of modern and commercially viable legal enterprises, with their product sales reaching 55 million United States dollars in 2006, a 38 per cent increase over 2005. In Bolivia, UNODC supported vocational training and micro-enterprise development activities in order to generate employment and livelihood opportunities for young people in the Cochabamba Tropics region. A four-year agroforestry programme was launched in 2006 in that area and one in the Yungas of La Paz region was continued.

83. In 2007, the Government of Myanmar, UNODC and other United Nations bodies agreed on a framework for transition from emergency relief to sustainable development in the Wa region in the period 2008-2011.

84. UNODC provided alternative development assistance to former opium poppy growers. It also assisted the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in mapping the poorest former opium poppy cultivating villages in order to identify gaps in support and potential partners.

D. Data collection, research and monitoring of drug trends

85. In the *World Drug Report 2008*,[4] UNODC confirmed that progress had been made in the area of drug control, although containment was currently under threat. While the global levels of production of cannabis and amphetamine-type stimulants had remained stable, there had been an increase in cocaine use in Europe and South America and an escalation of opium production in Afghanistan, despite the increased number of poppy-free provinces in that country. Reports of surveys of illicit opium production were published in October for South-East Asia (the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Thailand), completing the global opium and heroin production picture for 2007. New data on coca bush cultivation in the Andean countries in 2007 were published in June 2008.

86. UNODC documented the situation in Africa, in particular with regard to the alarming increase in cocaine trafficking through West Africa, in reports prepared in August, November and December 2007.

87. In 2007, UNODC and its national counterpart agencies conducted illicit crop monitoring surveys in Afghanistan, Bolivia, Colombia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Peru. In Ecuador, an initial assessment of coca bush cultivation was conducted.

[4] *World Drug Report 2008* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XI.1).

E. Strengthening the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

88. Pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 48/14, the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for UNODC (Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/12, annex) was developed to enhance accountability by implementing result-based management. The strategy has been incorporated into the strategic framework of the United Nations for the period 2010-2011 and the consolidated budget for the biennium 2008-2009 for UNODC (E/CN.7/2007/17) is also in alignment with the three basic themes and 14 result areas identified.

89. At its fifty-first session, the Commission adopted its decision 51/1, entitled "Improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime", in which it decided to establish an open-ended intergovernmental working group to discuss and prepare recommendations to be presented to the Commission at its fifty-second session on how to ensure political ownership by the Member States and on how to improve the governance structure and the financial situation of UNODC.

90. Although the work of UNODC is mandated by a broad range of international legally binding instruments and the many United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, its regular budget resources amount to less than 1 per cent of the United Nations regular budget. Given the discrepancy between its multifaceted mandate and its weak regular resource base, UNODC has redefined its strategic priorities in the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for UNODC, which will allow it to engage in a more strategic dialogue with its stakeholders and to promote more flexible funding methods.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

A. Conclusions

91. In 1998, at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, Member States assumed a series of major commitments to combat the world drug problem. Member States have an obligation to give serious consideration to those commitments, to review what has been achieved and to reaffirm that political commitment by developing new actions, when and where required, as well as to deepen the reach of interventions that have proven effective and efficient.

92. Member States have continued to make progress in all areas of the Political Declaration and related measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session.

93. Available information on the drug abuse situation suggests that, despite an apparent increase in the absolute number of cannabis, cocaine and opiates users, the annual prevalence levels have remained stable in all drug markets.[5] As drug abuse behaviour is influenced by multiple factors, it would appear that declines in

[5] *World Drug Report 2008* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XI.1).

consumption tend to occur in countries where long-term, sustained and well-resourced demand reduction strategies have been implemented.

94. The diversion from legitimate commerce of chemicals used to process and refine drugs is becoming an increasingly serious problem.

B. Recommendations

1. Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly

95. Member States should consider reaffirming their commitment to assessing the impact of their global efforts to combat the world drug problem.

96. It is important to note that, even if a country has developed a national drug control strategy and established a national authority to coordinate its implementation, there may still be a need to strengthen that strategy or authority politically or in terms of its technical, institutional or human resource capacity.

97. The impact of the world drug problem on the social, economic, health, political and governance aspects of societies continues to be significant. Member States have an obligation to seriously consider those commitments, review achievements and map out any further action that may be needed.

98. Member States should call for UNODC to be provided with adequate regular budget resources to enable it to meet its mandates. Member States are encouraged to continue and further increase their financial and political support for the work of UNODC.

2. Demand reduction

99. Member States should further expand and improve the coverage of demand reduction programmes and services, including in the areas of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, and should aim to reduce the negative health and social consequences of drug abuse.

3. Amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors

100. More needs to be done to effectively curb the manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants at the national, regional and international levels.

101. Member States should continue to address deficiencies in national legislation and regulatory frameworks for the control of precursor chemicals and to include in their precursor control framework a system of prior authorization for imports and exports.

102. Member States should establish codes of conduct to enable effective collaboration with the chemical industry and should take measures to prevent trade in and diversion of materials and equipment used for the illicit production or manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

4. Judicial cooperation

103. Member States should adopt or revise national legislation to permit extradition, mutual legal assistance and controlled delivery.

104. Member States should adopt legislation to protect witnesses, judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officers.

5. Money-laundering

105. Member States should establish legislative frameworks to criminalize the laundering of money derived from drug trafficking and other serious crimes and should adopt legislative measures to identify, freeze, seize and confiscate the proceeds of criminal activities.

6. Illicit crop eradication and alternative development

106. Member States affected by illicit drug crop cultivation are urged to strengthen cross-border, subregional and regional technical assistance and cooperation, including South-South cooperation.

107. The international community is urged to include alternative development strategies and objectives in broad-scale development strategies and programmes and to increase support for rural development in regions and populations affected by illicit drug crop cultivation.

108. Member States affected by illicit drug crop cultivation are urged to develop or take advantage of existing schemes for alternative development products and those not affected by illicit drug crop cultivation are urged to provide greater access to their markets for those products.

109. Donors, affected States and other relevant key development partners should examine innovative ways to promote environmentally sound alternative development programmes.

110. Socio-economic parameters should be used to measure the impact and sustainability of alternative development, including on education, health, employment, environment and gender-related issues, institution-building and governmental capacity.